

# BLACK SCIENCE

24

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
MORENO DINISIO



## THE STORY SO FAR...

When Grant McKay, head of Anarchist League of Scientists, completed the Pillor Project, a device capable of punching through the barriers of reality and travel to alternate dimensions, he hoped this accomplishment would make up for a lifetime of regret and mistakes. He was wrong...

On its maiden voyage, the Pillar malfunctioned, jumping at random intervals, sending Grant, his team, and his two children Pia and Nate spiraling through the Eververse, stranded in a chaotic maelstrom of infinitely potential alternate worlds.

Though Grant tried to keep his children safe and the team together, it was all for naught. Mistaking his longtime rival Kadir's intentions, Grant plunged a sword into his chest in a blind rage. Before his children could explain the truth, the Pillar burst into pieces, stranding Grant on a strange world, alone.

After years of solitude on the sentient planet Godworld, Grant managed to pull himself together, and devised a new Pillar to resume his mission to gather his family and bring his children home to their mother, Soro.

His well-intended attempt to rescue his daughter Pia resulted in Grant almost triggering a war between three godlike races, whom Pia had spent years stewarding into signing a peace treaty.

To prove to Pia that he is a changed man, Grant took it upon himself to save the situation and sought out the cursed witch Dexta, to steal from her a magical artifact that could prevent the coming war.

**RICK REMENDER:** Writer • **MATTEO SCALERA:** Artist  
**MORENO DINISIO:** Colorist • **RUS WOOTON:** Letterer  
**SEBASTIAN GIRNER:** Editor

BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera



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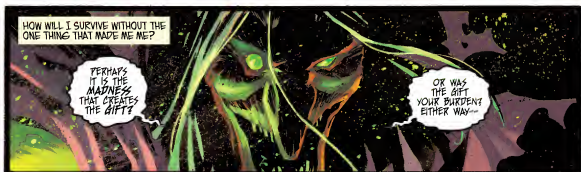
WE ALL LABEL  
OURSELVES.

FOCUS ON ONE THING  
WE IDENTIFY AS ABOVE  
ALL OTHERS.

I'M ABOUT TO SEE WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN YOU STRIP  
THAT THING AWAY.

WHAT  
A MESS  
YOU'VE  
MADE IN  
HERE.









"...I JUST HELPED AN EVIL MIND-  
WITCH WITH HER ROTTEN PLANS."

...AND WE MUST  
STILL CONSIDER  
THE OPTION OF A  
DIPLOMATIC  
MARRIAGE TO  
THE SKYWARD  
REACHES.

FATHER,  
PLEASE. I  
HAVEN'T GIVEN  
UP HOPE THAT  
PIA WILL  
RETURN.

OF COURSE,  
KOR. BUT GIVEN  
WHERE SHE WENT...  
IT IS PRUDENT TO  
DISCUSS OPTIONS  
SHE SHOULD SHE  
NOT--

DON'T GO  
PANNING OFF  
MY MAN JUST  
YET.



HE'S GOT TO HELP ME  
PICK CHINA PATTERNS  
IN THE MORNING.

BELOVED!

A TRUE  
MIRACLE THAT  
YOU FOUND YOUR  
FATHER BEFORE  
HE REACHED  
DOXTA'S DEN!



I DIDN'T.

WE'LL  
TALK ABOUT  
DOXTA, BUT  
TAKE THIS  
FOR NOW.

BUT  
WHAT--

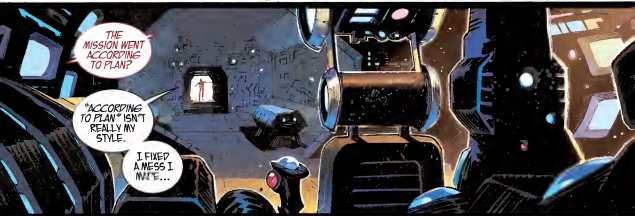


BY GOLDRA'S  
SOUL, SHE HAS  
FOUND IT!





THERE  
SEEMS TO BE  
SOME SORT OF A  
CELEBRATION  
HAPPENING.



THE  
MISSION WENT  
ACCORDING  
TO PLAN?

"ACCORDING  
TO PLAN" ISN'T  
REALLY MY  
STYLE.

I FIXED  
A MESS I  
MADE...

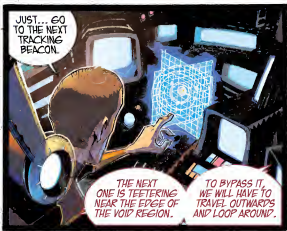


...TWO IF YOU  
COUNT KEEPING  
SPAGHETTI  
ALIVE.

SPAGHETTI?

A NEW  
FRIEND.

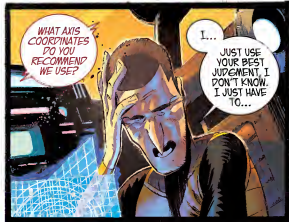
AND  
PIA?



JUST... GO  
TO THE NEXT  
TRACKING  
BEACON.

THE NEXT  
ONE IS TEETERING  
NEAR THE EDGE OF  
THE VOID REGION.

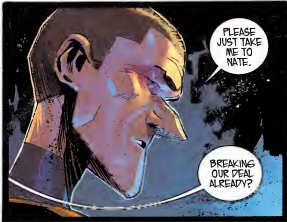
TO BYPASS IT,  
WE WILL HAVE TO  
TRAVEL OUTWARDS  
AND LOOP AROUND.



WHAT AXIS  
COORDINATES  
DO YOU  
RECOMMEND  
WE USE?

I...

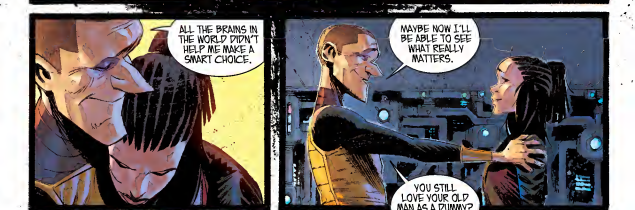
JUST USE  
YOUR BEST  
JUDGEMENT, I  
DON'T KNOW.  
I JUST HAVE  
TO...

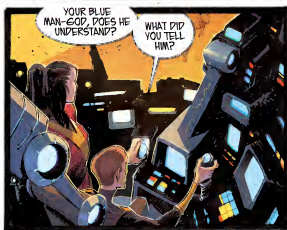
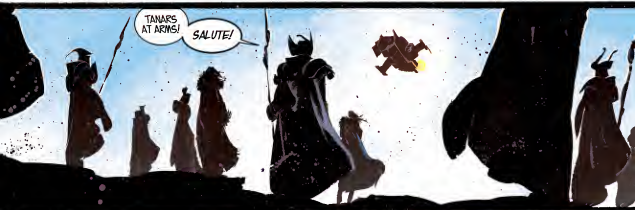
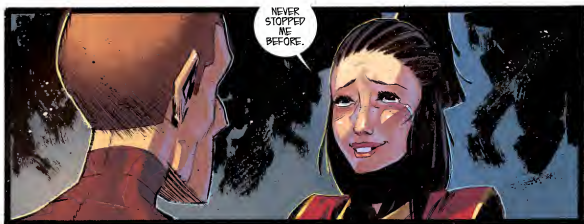


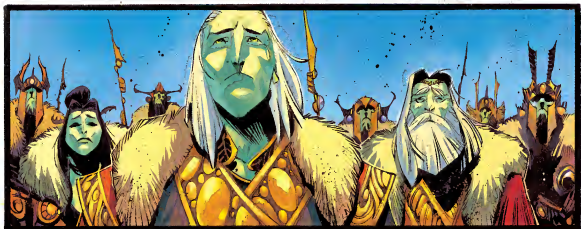
PLEASE  
JUST TAKE  
ME TO  
NATE.

BREAKING  
OUR DEAL  
ALREADY?





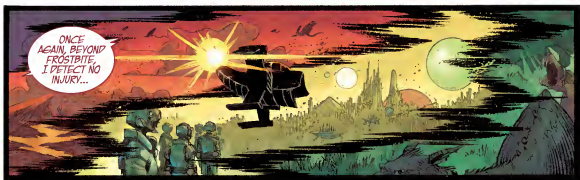




DREEEEEEEE~







ONCE  
AGAIN, BEYOND  
FROSTBITE  
I DETECT NO  
INJURY...

...PHYSICAL OR  
PHYSIOLOGICAL.

I CANNOT  
HEAL NOR  
RECONSTRUCT  
WHAT HASN'T  
BEEN  
DAMAGED.

HOW CAN  
YOU SAY I AMN'T  
DAMAGED—  
THERE! LISTEN  
TO THAT  
GRAMMAR!

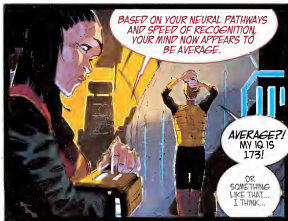
I TRY TO  
THINK OF WORDS  
AND I CAN'T  
REMEMBER THEM.  
IT'S LIKE... THERE'S  
JUST A BLANK  
SPACE IN MY  
HEAD.



DAD...

GOT TO SOLVE  
PROBLEMS AN' I  
CAN'T GET MY HEAD  
AROUND ANY OF IT!

HOW CAN YOU  
TELL ME THERE'S  
NOTHING TO FIX?!  
SCAN ME AGAIN!



BASED ON YOUR NEURAL PATHWAYS  
AND SPEED OF RECOGNITION,  
YOUR MIND NOW APPEARS TO  
BE AVERAGE.

AVERAGE!  
MY IQ IS  
173!

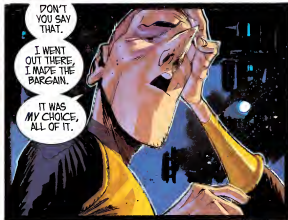
OR  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT...  
I THINK...



NOT  
ANYMORE.

WHATEVER  
HAPPENED I'M  
AFRAID I SEE  
NO WAY TO  
REVERSE THE  
EFFECTS.

THIS  
IS MY  
FAULT.



DON'T  
YOU SAY  
THAT.

I WENT  
OUT THERE,  
I MADE THE  
BARGAIN.

IT WAS  
MY CHOICE,  
ALL OF IT.

SHIT,  
MAYBE IT'S  
FOR THE  
BEST.

MAYBE I'M  
TOO DUMB TO  
BE SMART.

MADE THE  
PILLAR TO HELP  
TO SOLVE EVERY  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DISASTER, EVERY  
DISEASE, FIND  
EVERY NEEDED  
RESOURCE.



I SACRIFICED  
EVERYTHING.  
DID IT ALL TO  
SAVE THE WORLD  
FOR MY KIDS.

BUT  
NOTHING  
TURNED  
OUT HOW I  
EXPECTED.

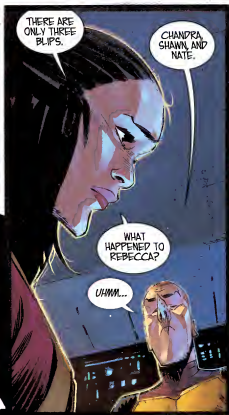
WHAT IF  
WHILE TRYING  
TO SAVE ONE  
WORLD...



...I MADE THE WEAPON THAT'LL  
DESTROY ALL WORLDS?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN  
MEANING TO ASK. THIS MAP  
OF THE UNION, IT'S FULL OF  
BLANK SPOTS.

YEAH, I THINK  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
BAD HAPPENING.  
SOMETHING WE SET  
IN MOTION...



THERE ARE  
ONLY THREE  
BLIPS.

CHANDRA,  
SHAWN, AND  
NATE.

WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
REBECCA?

UHHM...



BETTER  
I DON'T  
KNOW.

OKAY, SO, ONE  
OF THESE BLIPS  
IS NATE, BUT WE  
DON'T KNOW  
WHICH ONE?

PRETTY  
MUCH.

SO WHY ARE  
WE MOVING  
AWAY FROM ALL  
THREE OF  
THEM?

BECAUSE  
WE'RE NOT  
GOING AFTER  
NATE.

"I'M TAKING  
YOU HOME."

DREEEEEEE

FIND A FIELD IN  
THE NORTH PART OF  
TOWN AND GO INVISIBLE,  
YOU KNOW, CLOAK  
OR WHATEVER.

UNDERSTOOD.

OR WHATEVER.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT,  
HOME?

WE HAVE  
TO GET  
NATE!

I HAVE  
TO GET  
NATE.

WON'T RISK  
BRINGING  
YOU.

YOU'RE  
GOING HOME  
TO YOUR  
MOTHER.

IF YOU  
WON'T DO IT  
FOR ME,  
DO IT FOR  
HER.

SHE THINKS  
WE'RE DEAD  
BY NOW, PIA.  
GO HOME.

SHE  
NEEDS  
YOU.

WHAT IF...  
WHAT IF YOU  
DON'T COME  
BACK?

YOU CAN  
TRACK  
ME WITH  
THIS.

IT'LL ALERT  
YOU WHENEVER  
A PILLAR JUMPS  
INTO OUR  
UNIVERSE.



I'M NOT  
SURE I CAN  
HANDLE THIS  
ALONE.

WHAT DO  
WE TELL  
HER?

THE  
TRUTH.



I...  
THAT'S  
QUITE A  
LOT.

I NEVER  
THOUGHT I'D  
EVER EVEN SEE  
MOM AGAIN. OR  
YOU FOR THAT  
MATTER.

JUST  
A FEW DAYS  
AGO I  
WAS...

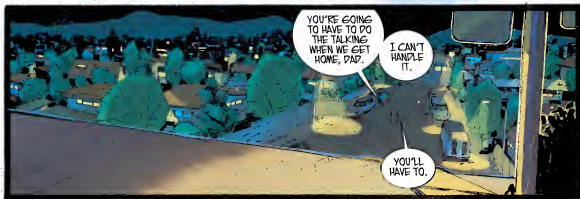


YOU WERE MAKING  
A WORLD BETTER  
THAN IT WAS BEFORE  
YOU ARRIVED.



YOU WERE  
DOING WHAT  
DIMENSIONAUTS DO.

WHAT WE  
INTENDED  
TO DO ANYWAY.

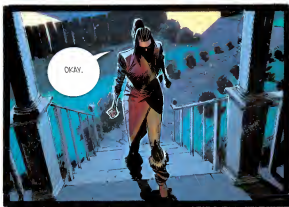
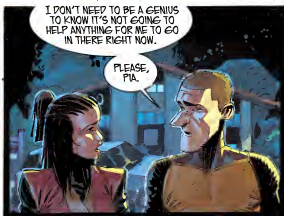


YOU'RE GOING  
TO HAVE TO DO  
THE TALKING  
WHEN WE GET  
HOME, DAD.

I CAN'T  
HANDLE  
IT.

YOU'LL  
HAVE TO.







NO WORRIES,  
SWEETIE, JUST  
HAVE TO GET  
IT OUT OF  
THE—

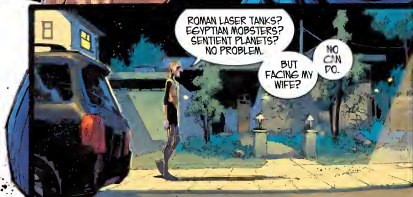


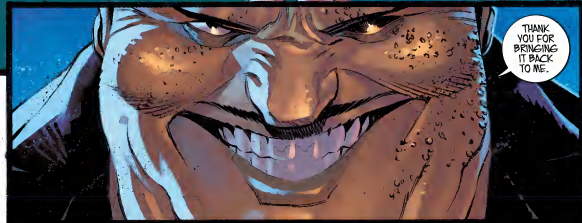
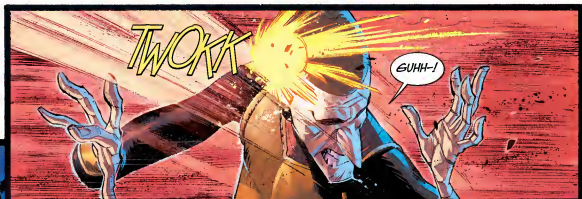
W-WHA—  
WHAT  
THE—



BABY,  
WHAT IS  
IT—



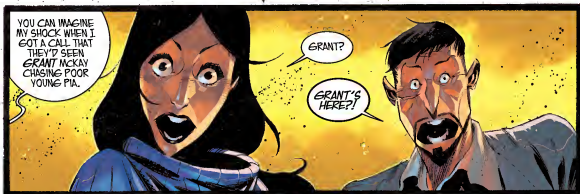














LET US  
SPEAK.



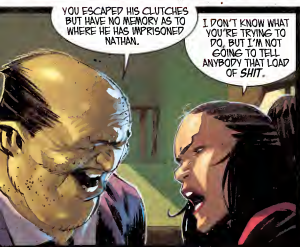
THE LAST  
THREE YEARS  
HAVE BEEN  
TRYING, I  
KNOW.

FIRST, YOUR FATHER'S INEPTITUDE  
CAUSES A LAB ACCIDENT THAT  
KILLED CHANDRA, WARD, JEN,  
REBECCA, AND SHAWN.

HE  
KIDNAPPED  
YOU, KADIR, AND  
YOUR BROTHER  
TO HIDE THIS  
DISASTER.

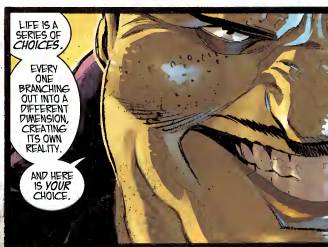
YOU'VE BEEN  
THIS MADMAN'S  
HOSTAGE FOR YEARS  
AND BEEN JONESTOWNED  
INTO BELIEVING HIS  
DELUSIONAL PARANOIA.

WHAT?



YOU ESCAPED HIS CLUTCHES  
BUT HAVE NO MEMORY AS TO  
WHERE HE HAS IMPRISONED  
NATHAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE TRYING TO  
DO, BUT I'M NOT  
GOING TO TELL  
ANYBODY THAT LOAD  
OF SHIT.



LIFE IS A  
SERIES OF  
CHOICES.

EVERY  
ONE  
BRANCHING  
OUT INTO A  
DIFFERENT  
DIMENSION,  
CREATING  
ITS OWN  
REALITY.

AND HERE  
IS YOUR  
CHOICE.



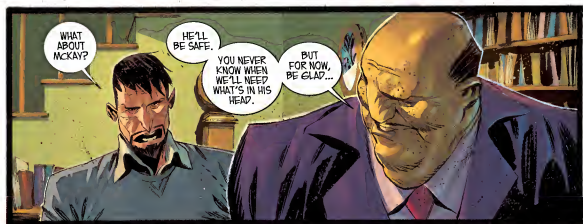
IN ONE DIMENSION YOU  
TELL EVERYONE EXACTLY  
WHAT I HAVE JUST TOLD  
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL  
BE SAFE AND WELL  
COMPENSATED.

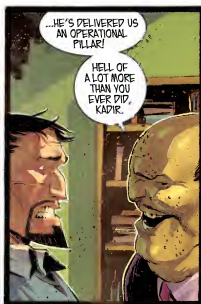


THEN THERE  
IS ANOTHER  
REALITY.

GET  
YOUR HANDS  
OFF OF--

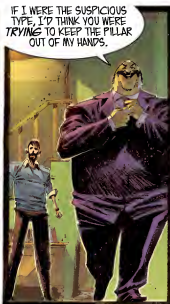






...HE'S DELIVERED US  
AN OPERATIONAL  
PILLAR!

HELL OF  
A LOT MORE  
THAN YOU  
EVER DID,  
KADIR.

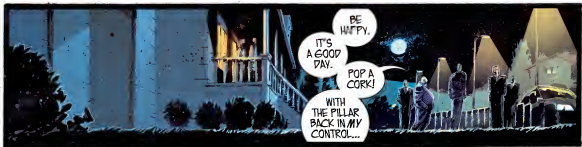


IF I WERE THE SUSPICIOUS  
TYPE, I'D THINK YOU WERE  
TRYING TO KEEP THE PILLAR  
OUT OF MY HANDS.



REMEMBER,  
YOUR MARRIAGE TO  
PRECIOUS SARA HINGES  
ON HER NEVER FINDING  
OUT THE TRUTH,  
MR. ASLAN.

SO, WE ALL  
HAVE GOOD  
REASON TO  
STICK TO MY  
VERSION OF  
THINGS.



BE  
HAPPY.

IT'S  
A GOOD  
DAY.

POP A  
CORK!

WITH  
THE PILLAR  
BACK IN MY  
CONTROL...



...THE  
REAL WORK  
CAN FINALLY  
BEGIN.

TO BE  
CONTINUED...

# FROM PILLAR TO POST



CALLING ALL DIMENSIONAUTS!

Send comments, questions and distress signals to  
[WriteRemender@gmail.com](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)! Mark letters "OK to print".

Welcome back, Dimensionauts! Or should I say "welcome home"? We finally made it back to where it all began, but is this the triumphant return to the safe bosom of Grant & Co's reality that you imagined? Things are about to go way south for our gang, and with Grant having handed over the most prominent part of his gray matter to an evil interdimensional witch, will he be in any shape to stop it? The answer is... things are about to kick off!

Rick is neck-deep in some really exciting new projects that he's dying to share with you all, but in the meantime, you'll have to make do with your friendly over-caffeinated Editor.

## Let's get to some letters!

Gentles:

Been reading since number one; Remender's name was enough to get me to subscribe as I had just discovered *Fear Agent*.

BLACK SCIENCE ain't funny; it ain't *Fear Agent*, but it is Fantastic!

Frankly, I was completely baffled for the first few issues; being alienating to find Grant suddenly everywhere; it's like I am in the middle of a David Lynch movie. But, by issue six I discovered that this is exactly how Grant and all the Dimensionauts, must feel constantly.

I was unsure about Scalera's pages, too, but after recognizing Grant as an ape and as praying mantis, I was convinced. At first, panels seem filled with violence and chaos, and they are, but it reads. What I see is what I am supposed to see and how Scalera makes it work so well I will never know.

This is great science fiction with a frantic and exhausting pace; when will they get a little rest? And being lost in infinite worlds is only half their trouble; the rest is being human!

I don't know how much you guys still got in ya, but I intend to read it all. Thanks for a great time!

Griffin (like the monster) Mauser (like the gun)

Thanks, Griffin! And may I just say that with a name like Griffin Mauser you definitely need a comic series based on your exploits of, what I can only assume, is a bold, adventurous life of fighting space pirates or competing in some kind of *Mad Max* / *Mario Kart*-esque death race!

Glad you're digging both *Fear Agent* and *BLACK SCIENCE* for their different charms. Heath Huston is a long shot from Grant McKay, but both men are saddled with their share of virtues as well as demons. Heath's lived at the bottom of a whiskey bottle, and Grant's lives... where I wonder?

And we got plenty more *BLACK SCIENCE* left to razzle your brainwaves with yet! Grant's entire life's worth of chickens is about to come home to roost some giant ass eggs, and it's going to be glorious. Plus, there are those other blips out there in the Eververse that we never got a chance to visit, not to mention the ever-expanding black spots in the Onion construct. I guess you can't let a guy who calls himself head of the *Anarchist League of Scientists* loose on creation and expect some bad jazz to go down.

Hi, Rick!!

My name is Brian. I'm 20 years old, and I'm from Argentina.

First of all, I got to say that your work in *BLACK SCIENCE* amazes me. I recommend it to everyone I meet who reads comics.

The work you're putting out at Image Comics has inspired me to make my own comic book. I'm trying to develop it all by myself because in my country the comic industry is not so massive as it is in the States, and there are just fewer opportunities to create and consume them.

I wanted to ask you if you got some tip or advice for me, given the fact that I'm an amateur. I'd be grateful.

I hope some day I can meet you at some comic con here. And give my best congrats to Matteo his art is incredible.

I believed that if I'm successful with my project I would let you know and give my thanks.

Brian

Hi, Brian! Nice to hear from you. We really appreciate you spreading the word in your motherland. Living and working in the US, you sometimes forget that it's harder in some places to get comics than in others. I'm from Germany originally, and I remember scouring a lot of obscure-ass back alley stores to get the books I was looking for.

As for tips on getting started in comics, pretty much every creator

you ask will probably give you different advice, but for my part, I would say: just never stop.

There is a lifetime's worth of information online about every aspect of the craft of making comics: how to develop a plot, write a script, structure a pitch, break down a story page, thumbnails, pencils, inks, colors, lettering, logo design. Once you get into that, you'll be busy for years, and the learning never ends.

Start small. Try to write or draw a short story, or even just a one-pager before tackling your thousand-page epic. Get used to getting feedback, taking criticism, reconsidering things you were 100% certain about.

See if there are local conventions in your city or area, try to see and meet other creators, artists. One thing I've found about comics is that most people are incredibly generous and kind with their time and advice. And nothing fills up the energy meter faster than having a great experience with other creators, hearing their views and ideas.

A more personal matter is the one of keeping yourself motivated and encouraged to keep creating even when things are tough, and you're feeling discouraged. Everyone has a different method of overcoming those obstacles, but just remember that you're never alone. All of us are fighting that same ocean.

Ultimately, I think being honest with yourself and having the guts to open up in your work is crucial. Take a part of yourself that you love, loathe, or are confused about, and bring it to the page. Explore yourself and your life and ideas with your writing and your characters.


Be afraid, but be fearless, if that makes any sense.

Hope some of this hits the mark. We wish you well and all the best for your project!

That's all for this month. Keep writing in, we love to hear from you.

And don't miss next month when we celebrate *BLACK SCIENCE* #25, a milestone issue for Rick, Matteo, Moreno, and Rus!

Back in 30!  
SG



The thing you hate most holds your only hope.

**RICK REMENDER, JEROME OPEÑA, & MATT HOLLINGSWORTH** reteam to bring you the story of ADAM OSIDIS, a dying knight from a disgraced house, who must rid his world of an insidious God who has the power to give Adam everything his heart desires.

All men have surrendered their freedom for fear. The last free man must now choose.

**RICK REMENDER & JEROME OPEÑA** IN COLLABORATION WITH **IMAGE COMICS** PRESENT

# SEVEN TO ETERNITY™

SEPTEMBER 2016

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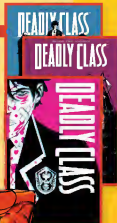


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